



Always a key figure in the celebration of Saint David's Day in Carbondale, he is shown here as Master of Ceremonies at the 2011 Saint David's Day dinner in Carbondale.



Robert also became a member in 2012 of the Dearly Departed Players, a Scranton-based theatrical group that annually hosts the Dunmore Cemetery Tour, among other annual productions. Given here is a photo of the ensemble in Dunmore Cemetery in 2012. S. Robert is in the back row, far left.





In the 2012 Dunmore Cemetery Tour, Robert portrayed the legendary James Archbald, a major figure in the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and later the first mayor of the City of Carbondale:

Here is S. Robert, standing in front of the Archbald obelisk in Dunmore Cemetery, just before his performance in 2012:







Here is S. Robert during the performance itself:



In 2013, Robert portrayed John B. Smith, the superintendent of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's Gravity Railroad. Here is S. Robert during a dress rehearsal in September 2013:







In the photograph given below, Robert is shown waiting for the spectators to gather around the John B. Smith monument, before his performance as John B. Smith in the Dunmore Cemetery on October 13, 2013:



In the photograph by Duane Morris given below, Robert is shown performing the part of John B. Smith on October 13, 2013:



Given below is a photograph of S. Robert Powell, in the persona of John B. Smith, that was taken by Thomas Klopfer of Archbald on October 13, 2013, during the annual Dunmore Cemetery tour by the Dearly Departed Players.





More theatre: Here are some photos of SRP, and others, that were taken by Dorothy Loney during rehearsals and during the two performances on November 9 and 10, 2013, in Temple Israel, Scranton, of Julie Esty's play, *An Evening at Ford's Theatre*. In this play, SRP portrayed the character Kent, a gentleman who was present in Ford's Theatre on the night that Lincoln was shot. Note the many different hand and arm gestures of SRP in these photographs.



SRP and Billy Loney, at dress rehearsal



SRP and Jim Patterson, at dress rehearsal





SRP with Nelson Wood and Jennifer Ochman



SRP with Nelson Wood and Julie Esty







SRP with Christine McGeachie and Julie Esty





SRP with Julie Esty, author of *An Evening at Ford's Theatre*







SRP and Jim Patterson, curtain call

On October 20, 2013, Robert exhibited some of his standard Partridge Plymouth Rocks and Malays at the 2013 Yankee Fall Classic Poultry Show in Syracuse, NY. A wheaten Malay hen that he showed was named Champion All Other Standard Breeds and Grand Champion Standard of the show.

Robert continues to work to record and to preserve the history of the Welsh people who came to northeastern Pennsylvania throughout the nineteenth century to work in the anthracite mines and for the railroads and to build new lives for themselves here.

In recognition of his continuing efforts in that regard, Robert was awarded the President's Award by the Saint David's Society of Lackawanna County at the 2014 Saint David's day dinner hosted by the Lackawanna County Saint David's Society and the Carbondale Saint David's Day Committee.



In the photograph given below, taken by Henry J. Loftus, we see Robert offering his thanks to the Society and to the assembled guests at the dinner for the high honor that had been bestowed on him and, at the same time, reporting new facts that he had recently learned about the pioneer Welsh settlers of Carbondale and the Lackawanna Valley.

In the course of his remarks, Robert reported that he had recently learned that these annual banquets on Saint David's Day in Lackawanna County were started in the early years of the twentieth century by the members of the Tabernacle Congregational church on South Hyde Park Avenue, which as organized on June 23, 1886 by a group of 82 young Welsh people, among whom were James W. Reese and Frances Davies, the maternal grandparents of Robert's father, Walter Silas Powell. Later in the century, beginning in 1911, the Lackawanna County Saint David's Society (LCSDS) was organized and from then on the LCSDS has hosted an annual banquet on Saint David's day.



Among the distinguished guests at the dinner was the Honorable Justin M. Taylor, Mayor of the City of Carbondale, who issued a proclamation to commemorate the

high honor that had been bestowed on Dr. Powell by the Welsh community of northeastern Pennsylvania. The proclamation issued by Mayor Taylor concludes with these words: "I do hereby proclaim Saturday, March 1, 2014, as Dr. S. Robert Powell Day and ask that all citizens recognize and honor this day, and this gentleman, for years to come—as our forefathers would want and expect from us."

For many years, Robert hoped to find in an antique store or in an attic a real straw boater/Panama hat. In the summer of 2014, Robert located a source for such a hat on the Internet and bought himself a straw boater. In the photo given below, taken by Jerry Williams at the reception at the Pioneer Plaza Best Western in Carbondale on the evening before the premier Northern Tier Towns Tour, July 6-8, 2014 (Robert served as the tour guide), you see Robert wearing his new hat and a special Pierre Cardin bow tie.





In the autumn of 2014, following twelve years of research and writing, Robert completed Volumes I-V of the 24-volume series that he is now writing on the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Those five volumes, see below, were published, as e-books, by the Carbondale Historical Society on October 9, 2014, the 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the D&H Gravity Railroad

from Carbondale to Honesdale. Volumes VI-X in that series are scheduled to be published on October 9, 2015. The remaining volumes in the series will also be published on the anniversary of the opening of the Gravity Railroad: in 2016, Volumes XI-XV; in 2017, Volumes, XVI-XX; in 2018, Volumes XXI-XXIV.



**John B. Jervis**, who worked with Benjamin Wright on the construction of the Erie Canal, was the most noted civil engineer of his time. On March 14, 1827, he was named Chief Engineer of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and served the D&H in that capacity for two years. It was Jervis who designed the Gravity Railroad that opened on October 9, 1829. Construction of the road began in 1827 and was completed in June of 1829. The construction cost was \$3 million.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: 1829 Configuration

**Vol.  
01**

**DVD  
ROM  
2014**

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad: 1829 Configuration



Gravity Railroad Monument, Gravity Park, Carbondale, PA.  
Photograph by S. R. Powell, 2011

By  
**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2014

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407





**John Wurts**, who married Martha Potts Haskins, was an 1813 graduate of Princeton College. He served as president of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company from April 13, 1831 to March 15, 1858. His nephew and adopted son, Charles Pemberton Wurts, was a key figure in the history of the D&H. Beginning in 1849, when the health of John Wurts began to fail, his brother Maurice acted as temporary president of the D&H. John Wurts died in Rome on April 23, 1861.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: 1845 Configuration

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2014

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad: 1845 Configuration



*James Archbold. Oil on canvas, from a painting by Elliott, dated 1845.  
copied by J. W. Baugh, 1901. Collection of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.*

By

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2014

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407



**Jane Ball**, who married Philo Callender Gritman, was born February 18, 1833, and died February 24, 1909. Her father, William Ball, was the first engineer at the head of Plane No. 1 on the Gravity Railroad. Jane Ball Gritman was an extraordinary archivist with a strong passion for the history of Carbondale. The Gritman collection at the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum is an important reference resource on the history of Carbondale in the nineteenth century.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: 1859 Configuration

Vol.  
03



2014

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad: 1859 Configuration



*MACHINE SHOPS, (CARBONDALE,) DEL. & HUDSON CANAL CO., detail of 1860 photograph by Johnson (Scranton, PA). The original print of this photograph is in the archives of the Wayne County Historical Society, Honesdale, PA.*

By

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2014

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407



In 1837, **Thomas Dickson** was hired by George A. Whiting, who was in charge of the horses and mules for the D&H, to drive the very large mule that was harnessed at the sweep which was used for lifting coal out of the mine at Carbondale. On May 13, 1869, Thomas Dickson, a "Great Scot," was elected the fifth president of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, and served the company in that capacity, brilliantly and with great style, until his death on July 31, 1884.

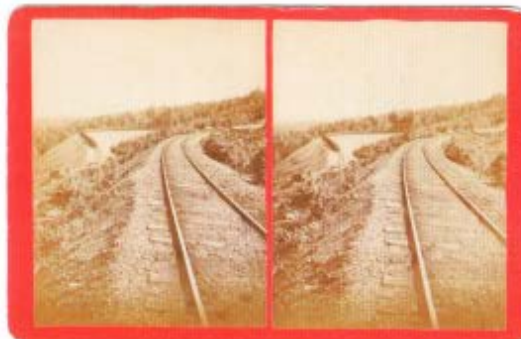
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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: 1868 Configuration

Vol.  
04

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## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad: 1868 Configuration



*A Ride over the Del. & Hud. Gravity Road into the Coal Region, Photographed and Published by L. Hensel, Port Jervis, N. Y. No. 1120: "View of Shepard's [sic] Creek."*  
Photograph in the collection of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

By

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2014

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407





Under the supervision of **William J. McMullen**, Honesdale Branch trainmaster, the South Canaan Loop was installed, and the gauge on the entire rail line from Carbondale to Honesdale was changed in record time from Gravity to standard gauge. In February 1900, he was returning from a tour of inspection over the Branch on engine No. 53, and at Panther Bluff got off to throw a switch and, in crossing the track in front of the moving engine, the tender struck and killed him.

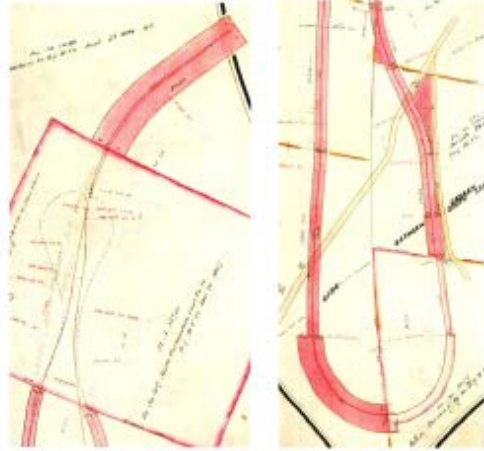
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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: 1899 Configuration

Vol.  
05

DVD  
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2014

# Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad: 1899 Configuration



Switchback at Shepherd's Creek  
1901 DMH Map, collection Carbondale DMH Transportation Museum

By

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2014

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, from noon to 1 P.M., Brian Lockman, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Cable Network, interviewed S. Robert Powell about Volumes I-V of his 24-volume series on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. At the conclusion of the interview, Brian Lockman said to Robert Powell: "Robert, that was an amazing interview. Thank you very much. I've been doing Pennsylvania Books for many years, and this interview with you today is the only instance in all those years that I have ever done a one-hour interview with anyone in a single take." Brian Lockman then said to the author: "Robert, I'm now going to ask you to do something that I have never before asked an author to do. Will you please autograph these copies of Volumes I-V in your D&H series." Robert: "With the greatest of pleasure. Thank you." The interview, which has won rave reviews from colleagues and friends, was broadcast on PCN on Sunday, February 15, 2015, at 7 PM.

On December 6, 2014, at the annual meeting of the American Poultry Association in Knoxville, TN, Robert was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the APA. Robert is the only member of the APA who has been named a Grand Master Exhibitor of standard Partridge Plymouth Rocks, which he has raised and shown for over 30 years, his birds having been named Champion Standard and Grand Champion of the Show on many occasions over the years. In 1998 he was licensed by the APA to judge standard and bantam chickens, and since then has judged 90 poultry shows from Boston to Billings—and at dozens of places in between.

Robert is a prolific writer on exhibition poultry and scores of his articles on all aspects of poultry husbandry, history, and management have been published in the yearbooks of the APA, in "News and Views," and in other national poultry publications over the past 30 years. In 1998, Robert wrote the American Game bantam section of the highly acclaimed German encyclopedia of bantam poultry, "Handbuch der Zwerghuhnrasen der Welt," that was published that year. For the period 2000-2006, Robert served as APA District 2 director.

Together with the Rev. Roland Romig and Don Perrin, Robert initiated and guided the three and one-half year process that resulted in the admission of pearl, lavender, and white Helmeted Guinea Fowl to the APA's "American Standard of Perfection" in January 2004 at Lake City, FL. In 2006, he and Duff H. S. Wehle wrote and published "The History of the Madison Square Garden Poultry Show, 1883-1953."

On October 9, 2015, the 186<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the D&H Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale, Volumes VI-X, in the 24-volume series that Robert is now writing on the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, were published, in an electronic format, by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum. The publication ceremony took place in the Main Street Gallery in the Chamber of Commerce building in Carbondale. Following the ceremony, a Champagne reception was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society. Here are the dust jackets for those five DVDs:

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Waterpower on the Gravity Railroad



View of Carbondale from the Hill above Plane No. 28 Engine House. Photograph by Thomas H. Johnson. In this photograph, the Carbondale Canal is seen between the Gravity Railroad tracks and the D&H steam line tracks. Photograph in the collection of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum.

By

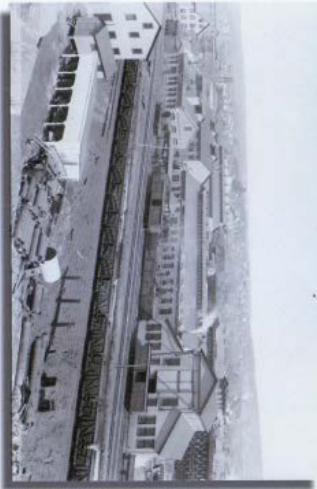
S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2015

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407

D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Waterpower

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Water to work the water wheels that at one time powered Plane No. 28 in downtown Carbondale was provided by the Carbondale Canal. Water for that canal was provided by raceways from both the Lackawanna River and, remarkably, the Fall Brook Creek. The Carbondale Canal ran north-south between the Gravity Railroad tracks and the D&H steam line tracks. In this photograph, the Carbondale Canal can be seen just over the tops of the string of Gravity coal cars in the middle ground. The steam line tracks are on the other side of the canal. Planes Nos. 1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, and 28 were all at one time powered by water wheels, with water provided by No. 4 Pond, the Lackawanna River, the Van Alden Creek, Stanton's Pond Lake Lodge, the Lackawanna River, the White Oak Run, and the Carbondale Canal. Water wheels were not used by the D. & H. in Carbondale after 1859; the wheel on Plane 21 in Archbold was abandoned in 1865; and the last water wheel used by the D. & H. the one on Plane No. 14, was taken out in 1868, and replaced with a stationary steam engine.

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Working Horses and Mules on the Gravity Railroad



Mules for the Coal Mines. Post card in the collection of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum and the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2015

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407

D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Horses and Mules

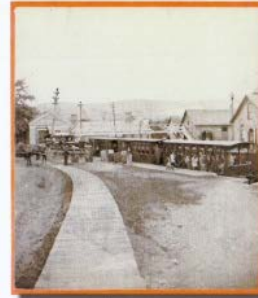
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The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company could not have built the Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale or any of its other rail lines in the nineteenth century or its Canal from Honesdale to the Lackawanna River without the help of horses, mules, and oxen. Similarly, the D&H could not have mined or transported coal without the help of horses, mules, and oxen. In the daily operations of the canal, the Gravity Railroad, and the Gravity Railroad, horses were used from 1829 to 1859. After 1859 they were used on the Gravity Railroad only at the foot of Planes Nos. 1 and 13. In the daily operations of the Canal, horses and mules were used from 1829 to the closing of the canal at the end of the nineteenth century. In the mines, mules were used from the earliest mining operations in the second decade of the nineteenth century until well into the twentieth century. In the photo of the D&H Carbondale yard shown here, we see two D&H horses, the one at work moving a flat car loaded with lumber, the other at rest.



## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Passenger Service on the Gravity Railroad



Hensel No. 1190: *Del. & Hud. Gravity Road Depot*. Stereoscopic Views of CARBONDALE Pa., Photographed and Published by L. HENSEL, Port Jervis, N. Y.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2015

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407

D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Passenger Service

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The D. & H. Gravity Passenger and Freight Depot in Honesdale was a three-story building, with passenger arrivals and departures on the second floor. The 3rd floor Gravity passenger train cars were pulled by a worker from the depot at the end of the night. The depot was of Pine No. 13, and then pulled to the head of the plane by a wire-rope cable, and from there sent on to Carbondale. Freight handling took place at street level, where teamsters in market wagons, pulled by working horses, conveyed and received freight. Pine No. 12 1/2 crossed Pine No. 13 on the lower of the two bridges over the plane; the Old Cherry Ridge Road crossed the plane on the second bridge. This remarkable photo is from the collection of Jim and Maureen Cliff, Honesdale, PA. Jim Cliff's paternal grandfather, William R. Cliff, worked for the D&H. Mr. and Mrs. William R. Cliff lived at Kears, PA (below Honesdale's town). Special thanks to Henry J. Loflin, White Mills, PA who made this and several other remarkable photos in the Cliff Collection available to us on October 23, 2014.

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## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad: Farview Park



*Coach Rides at Farview Park*. Photograph in the collection of the Carbondale Historical Society.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2015

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407

D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Farview Park

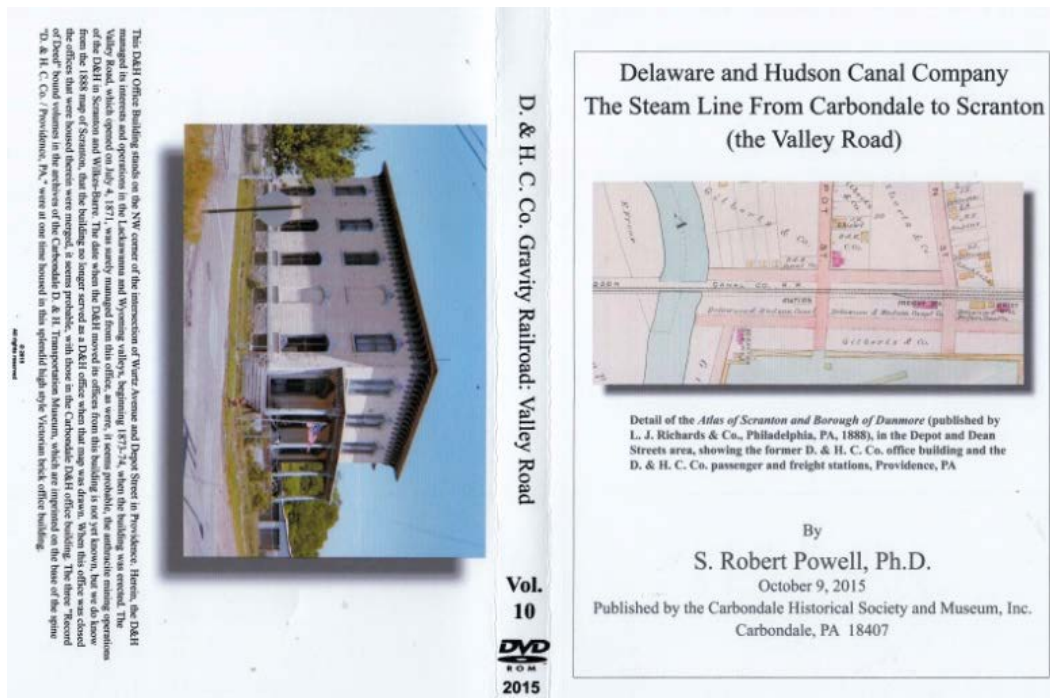
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Farview Park, on the summit of the Moose Mountain between Carbondale and Weymont, on the line of the D&H Gravity Railroad, opened in the fall of 1885. Thirty of the more than 600 acres in the park were improved as a picnic ground. There were more than 20 buildings in the park, the largest of which was a dancing pavilion, 175 feet long and 35 feet wide, and built with four wings. Also on the grounds were swings, rustic seats, tennis courts, football and baseball grounds, shaded walks, open vistas, and excellent spring water. There were also two observatories, from the higher of which, at 2,345 feet above the level of the sea, more than 20 villages and cities and 17 lakes could be seen. Farview Park was surely the most beautiful and most extensive in northeastern Pennsylvania from 1885 to the early years of the 20th century. On a record day in September, 1898, nearly 15,000 persons were present. The D&H Gravity Railroad provided the service to the park. Shown here is a group of D&H employees on a picnic outing at Farview Park.

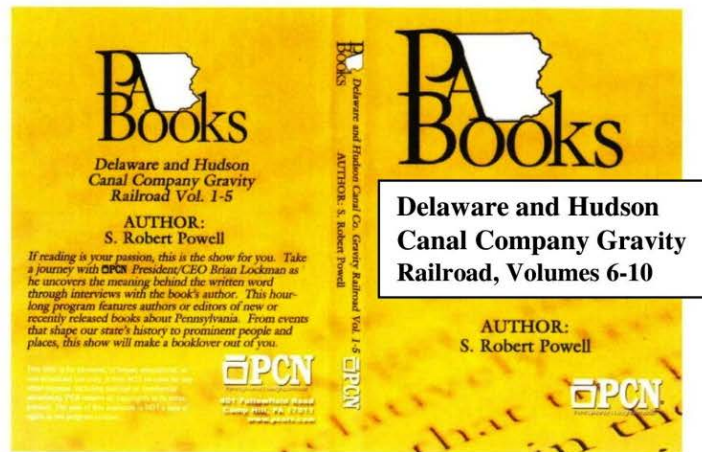
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On December 10, 2015, Robert was interviewed about those five volumes by Brian Lockman, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Cable Network. That one-hour interview, like the PCN interview on Volumes I-V, was completed in a single take. The interview, which has won rave reviews far and wide, was broadcast on *PA Books* on PCN on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 7 PM. PCN is Pennsylvania's educational, public affairs, and cultural cable TV network, and is carried by more than 145 cable providers in Pennsylvania.

## **D&H Author Will Be Guest on *Pennsylvania Books***

**this Sunday, January 17, 7 P.M., on PCN-TV**



### **Volumes VI – X:**

*Waterpower on the Gravity Railroad* (144 pages)

*Working Horses and Mules on the Gravity Railroad* (226 pages)

*Passenger Service on the Gravity Railroad* (360 pages)

*Farview Park* (290 pages)

*The Steam Line from Carbondale to Scranton (the Valley Road)* (341 pages)

On December 10, 2015, Brian Lockman, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) interviewed Dr. S. Robert Powell about these new volumes, published on October 9, 2015, in his series on the **Delaware and Hudson Canal Company**. This one-hour interview will be broadcast on PCN on Sunday, January 17, at 7 P.M.

PCN is Pennsylvania's educational, public affairs, and cultural cable TV network, and is carried by more than 145 cable providers in Pennsylvania. To view this interview, go to PCN on your local cable system.

If you can't access PCN on your local cable network, or if you live outside of Pennsylvania, this broadcast will be posted as a podcast on the PCN website ([www.pcntv.com](http://www.pcntv.com)) for one week, beginning January 18.



From October 26 to 29, 2015, the Historical Society hosted a visit to Carbondale of Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe. On Wednesday, October 27, the Chamber of Commerce hosted a reception for the Welsh choir. During that reception, Classic Voices, a Carbondale a cappella group, sang *Calon Lan*, in Welsh, for these choristers from Wales. Their performance of that well known Welsh song won high critical acclaim from the members of Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe. A photograph of Classic Voices singing *Calon Lan* is shown below. At the far left in this photograph, we see Robert (who is not much of a singer), who is not only making his American debut as a singer, but also singing in Welsh.





Robert wrote a detailed account of the October 2015 American tour by the Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe. That account, which was published in *Ninnau* (January-February 2016, p. 13), was described by Selwyn Morris and Lyn Thomas, members of the choir, as "brilliant."

During the Fall 2015/Winter 2016, The Delaware and Hudson Transportation Heritage Council created a documentary on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad. Three Gravity Railroad historians (Jane Varcoe, Cliff Robinson, Jr., and S. Robert Powell) were interviewed for this important documentary, which can be seen on line at [dhthc.org](http://dhthc.org). The documentary was produced by Bollinger & Rutter Video Products, Tyler Hill, PA.

The theatre group that Robert has belonged to many years, the Dearly Departed Players, was presented with an award by *Happenings Magazine* at a luncheon at the Hilton in Scranton on November 24, 2015. In the photograph shown below, taken by Wendy Belaski, we see Robert, in formal attire, at that presentation ceremony.





In the period June 18-July 3, 2017, Robert traveled to Wales with the Voices of the Valley Choir from Mid-Valley High School.

“. . . fond memories of this concert tour will be treasured forever by the Voices of the Valley Choir and friends.”



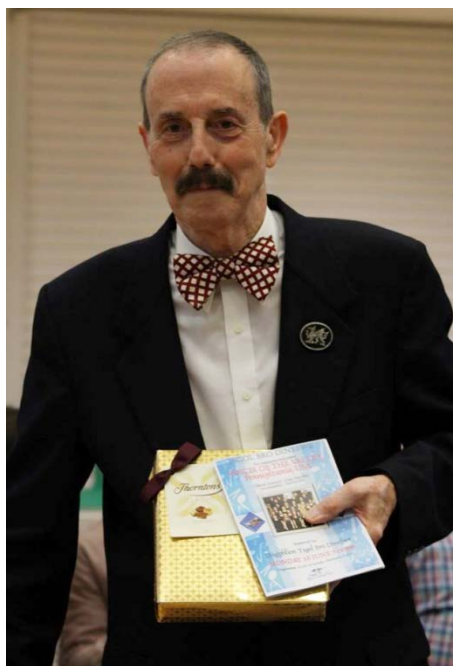
Robert and Jerry Williams at Ynyscedwyn Ironworks at Ystradgynlais on June 23, 2017



Robert in a reflective moment at Laugharne Castle on June 24, 2017.



Robert at the top of a turret at Kidwelly Castle on June 25, 2017.



Robert won one of the door prizes (a box of candy) at the Llandiello concert at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr on June 26, 2007.





Robert takes a ride on the merry-go-round at Cardiff harbor on June 27, 2017



Robert and a group of the members of the Voice of the Valley at Raglan Castle on July 2, 2017.



Here is the article that Robert wrote about the trip that was published in the September-October 2017 issue, p. 8, of *Ninnau*:

### **Triumphant Tour of South Wales by American Youth Choir**

By Dr. Silas R. Powell

Five brilliantly-conceived and flawlessly executed concerts by Voices of the Valley, under the direction of Gina Pascolini and with Marty Ort as accompanist, were performed during the choir's 5-concert tour of South Wales, June 18-July 3, 2017. Full houses and enthusiastic standing ovations were the order of the day at all of those concerts.

In the repertory of Voices of the Valley were six songs that the American students sang in Welsh, to the delight and enthusiastic approval of the audiences at all of the concerts: *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*, *Suo Gan*, *Calon Lan*, *Cwm Rhondda*, *Rachie*, and *Amazing Grace*.

The first of these five concerts took place on June 23 in Saint Cynog's Church, Ystradgynlais. Performances by the Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe and by students from Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera were an integral part of this concert.

Four concerts were then performed by the Voices of the Valley at Welsh comprehensive schools: on June 26 at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, Llandeilo (performances by Ysgol Bro Dinefwr students, under the direction of Conway Morgan, were featured on the program); on June 28 at Ysgol Bae Baglan, Port Talbot (performances by students at Ysgol Bae Baglan and by the Cymric Male Voice Choir were an integral part of this musical evening); on June 30 at Morriston Comprehensive School, Morriston (performances by the Morriston RFC Male Choir, Morriston Comprehensive Singers, and Cwmrhydyceirw Primary School Choir were featured during the evening).

The last of the five concerts performed by these students from America on their international odyssey of music and song was performed on July 1 as part of the Noel Davies MBE Cyngerdd Goffa, Pontarddulais Comprehensive Community School. Soul stirring and inspired performances by the Cor Meibion Pontarddulais Male Choir and by the Voices of the Valley Choir made this evening of music and fellowship unforgettable.

In addition to those five concerts, the American choir was honored to be asked to participate in the program of dedication at the refurbished Daniel Protheroe Memorial Park at Ystradgynlais on July 1, 2017. At the opening of the ceremonies, the Voices of the Valley sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*. That performance of the American national anthem was followed by a performance, in Welsh, by the Voices of the Valley, of two verses of Daniel Protheroe's hymn *Cwmgiedd*, a performance which many people have described as "a brilliant rendering" of that hymn.

Daniel Protheroe, who was born at Cwmgiedd near Ystradgynlais, Brecknockshire in 1866, emigrated to America as a young man and gained great fame as a conductor, educator, and composer, renowned for over 1,500 compositions. He died in 1934, and his earthly remains were interred in Forest Hills Cemetery, Dunmore, Pennsylvania, which is only a few miles from Archbald, Pennsylvania, where is located the home school of the Voices of the Valley choir.

During their two-week tour, the Voices of the Valley choir also sang selections from their repertory at many non-concert hall locations. In England: at Stonehenge and at Saint Paul's Cathedral; in Wales: at Tintern Abbey, Oxwich Bay Hotel, Danyr Ogof Caves, Craig-y-Nos Castle, National Botanical Gardens, St. David's Cathedral, the Welsh Senedd at Cardiff, Ystradgynlais Conservative Club, Blanco Hotel in Port Talbot, and Raglan Castle.

Given the fact that those sites were, in all cases, perfect venues for the musical selections chosen by Ms. Pascolini and performed at those sites by the choir, the performances were unforgettable, not only for the choir and friends traveling with the choir on their concert tour, but also for visitors to those sites whose good fortune it was to present as the choir sang.

At Tintern Abbey, at Saint Paul's Cathedral, and at St. David's Cathedral, for example, the choir's performance of "Amazing Grace" was enriched by the centuries-old ecclesiastical context in which that hymn was performed at those sites.

The same is true of the performance by Voices of the Valley of John Rutter's "All Things Bright and Beautiful" at the National Botanical Gardens of Wales. There, in the Great Glasshouse, before a backdrop of the breathtaking natural beauty of Wales, and accompanied by the benign and innocent songs of birds, the tragedy at Aberfan, on October 21, 1966, when 116 children and 28 adults were killed in the catastrophic collapse of a colliery spoil tip there, was rendered heart breaking and unforgettably poignant by the flawless performance by the choir of Rutter's wonderful song.

Selwyn Morris, a member of the Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe from Ystradgynlais, who served as the Welsh language coach for the American students, noted: "These students are absolutely amazing. They sing in Welsh as if it were their native language."

The tour director for this concert tour by Voices of the Valley was Ted Frutchey who, over the years, has organized many concert tours to America by choirs from Wales. The highly successful visit to America in October 2015 by the Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe, for example, was organized by Ted Frutchey, and during that choir's American tour the choir at Valley View High School performed on the same program with them at a concert in Carbondale. Following that concert, at the request of the Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe and Her Majesty's Representative to the County of Powys, the Voices of the Valley on this concert tour of Wales were invited to perform in Wales. In speaking of the members of the Voices of the Valley choir, Ted Frutchey noted: "This is America at its best."

During their time in Wales, the students visited many important historic sites in Wales, including Tintern Abbey, Craig Y Nos Castle, Laugharne Castle, the Dylan Thomas Boathouse at Tenby, Catell Cydweli, St. David's Cathedral, St. Fagan's National Museum of History, Big Pit National Coal Museum, Raglan Castle, Carreg Cennen Castle & Farm, Cardiff Castle and City of Cardiff, and Castell Caerdydd.



Seeing first-hand the natural beauty of South Wales also an important part of the trip for the students, who visited Rhossili Bay and village and the Gower peninsula, Pen Pyrod, Mumbles Pier, Saint Govan's Head at Boshereton, Oxwich Bay, Danyr Ogof Caves, and Llandeilo.

The choir and friends spent an enchanting day in Ystradgynlais on July 1. The day began with a 40-minute concert by the choir on the terrace at the Conservative Club, followed by an afternoon at the Buskagynlais in town and a bountiful Thanksgiving-style dinner at the Yniscedwyn Arms, to be followed by the re-dedication of the Daniel Protheroe Monument there.

Parents and friends of the Voices of the Valley took advantage of the opportunity, during their time in Wales, to make in-depth visits to historic sites not on the choir's itinerary. Those visits included a guided tour by John Owens, given to Jerry Williams and S. Robert Powell, of the primary Ystradgynlais historic sites, including the Yniscedwyn Ironworks, the Gorsedd Stones park that commemorates the 1954 National Eisteddfod at Ystradgynlais, the Miners' Memorial/Diamond Park (the site of the former Diamond Colliery), and a visit to Cwmgiedd and the pear tree and historical plaque there in memory of the inhabitants of the Czech mining community of Lidice, all of whom were killed, and the town erased from the map, in 1943, by the Nazis. That vicious act of hatred is the subject of the World War II film "The Silent Village," which was filmed at Cwmgiedd.

In addition, Selwyn Morris of Ystradgynlais hosted and conducted a day-long historical and genealogical tour for S. Robert Powell, to the Head of The Valleys and to the Blenavon National Historic Site there. Jerry Williams, the publicity chairman and media director for the Voices of the Valley tour, and Dr. Powell, both representing the Carbondale Historical Society in Pennsylvania, are presently focused on establishing a active working relationship with the Ystradgynlais District Heritage and Language Society, and other historical and genealogical societies in Wales. The stimulus for their research interest in this Carbondale/Wales initiative is the fact that ninety Welsh families were recruited in Wales, in 1830-1832, and brought to the Lackawanna Valley in Pennsylvania in order to teach the miners in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania how to conduct deep underground shaft mining.

The members of the Voices of the Valley 2017 Welsh Tour were: Beatrice Chindemi, Sarah Ferraro, Mia Tomassoni, Kaedy Masters, Cas Dumas, Joe Morisco, Justin Thomas, Kevin Mellow, Kara Hirjak, Cammie Gillar, Emily Williams, Julia Romanovich. Ryleah Ruffner, Noah Reed, Chris Benitez, Paulie Vanvestraut, Brianna Pallo, Juilie Krupka. Carleigh Gillar, Deanna Soulsby, Lorna Yushinsky, Noah McKane, Noah Benjamin, Teresa Dumas, Giavanna Mercatilli, Smantha Humen, Janet Zhao, Eric Lee, Josh Rudolph, and Kasidy Leggin.

This concert tour of South Wales by the Voices of the Valley choir was an intellectual, choral, and cultural achievement of the highest order, and the members of the choir and friends will never forget it. As the tour came to an end, Gina Pascolini noted: “The power of music knows no boundaries—not in miles, age or language. We are most humbled, blessed and thankful to have been able to make this trip to Wales and to have made friends for a lifetime.”

Many members of the tour will surely one day return to Wales. In a heart-warming and unforgettable expression of friendship, members of the Ystradgynlais Conservative Club, at the “afterglow” reception there following the choir’s final concert in Wales, sang, as a farewell gift to the American choir, “We’ll Keep a Welcome”. That moment and fond memories of this concert tour will be treasured forever by the Voices of the Valley Choir and friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

Published with the article in *Ninnau* were the following three photographs:



The Voices of the Valley are shown here singing "Ain't No Grave" by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory at the Noel Davies MBE Cyngerdd Goffa on July 1 at Pontarddulais.



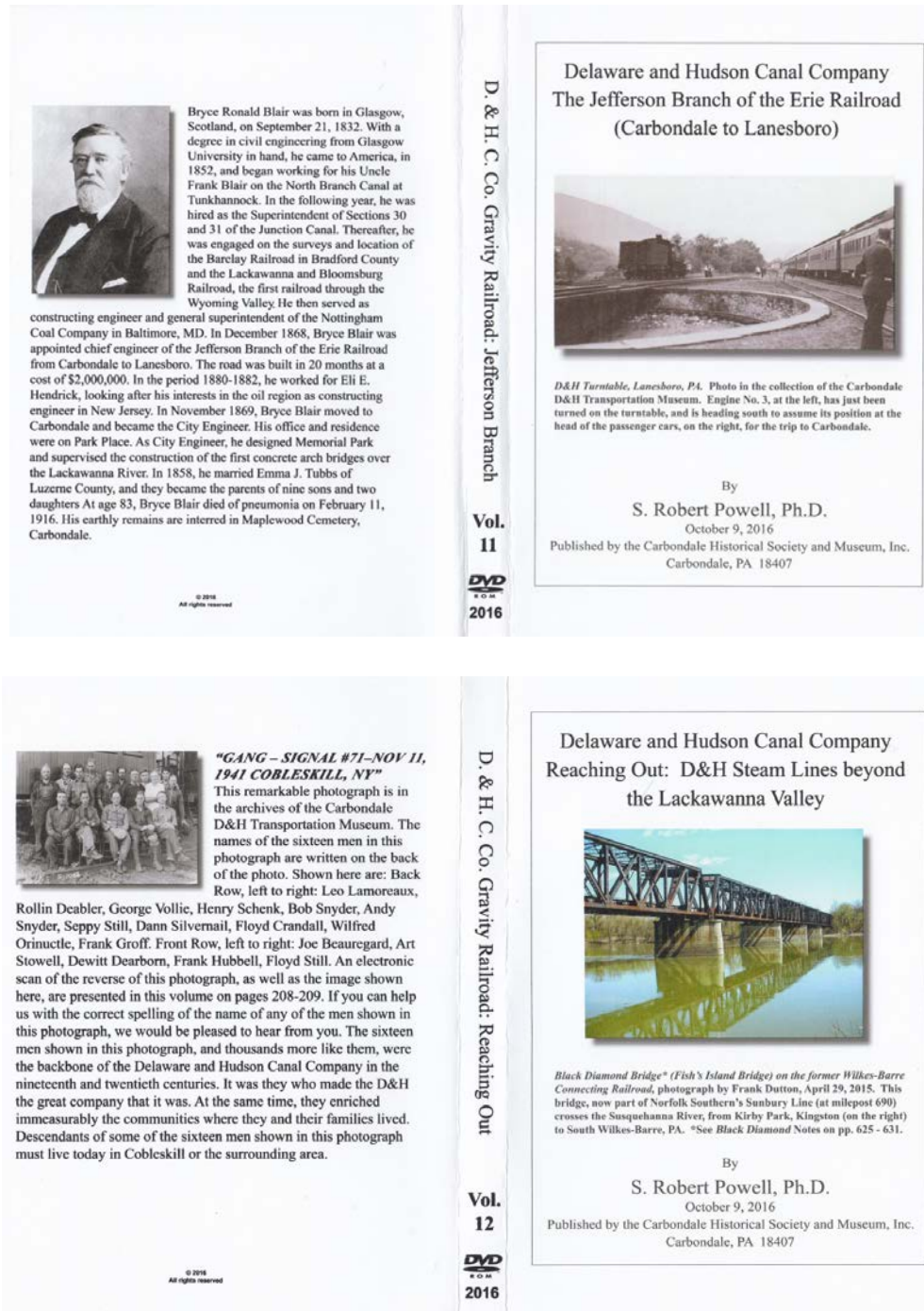


Gina Pascolini is the Choral Director of the Voices of the Valley Choir. She is shown here with Selwyn Morris, Ystradgynlais, a member of the Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe and the Welsh language coach for the students in the Voices of the Valley Choir.



The Central Memorial in the refurbished Daniel Protheroe Memorial Park, Ystradgynlais, was unveiled on July 1 by Mrs. Hannah Protheroe Griffiths, great niece of Daniel Protheroe. During those ceremonies, Ted Frutchey, on behalf of the Voices of the Valley, presented Mrs. Griffiths with a framed photograph of the tombstone of Daniel Protheroe in Forest Hills Cemetery, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

On October 9, 2016, Volumes XI through Volumes XV in Robert's series on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company were published. Here are the dust jackets for those five volumes:





Coe F. Young, of Scottish extraction, was born near Mount Hope, Orange County, NY, May 15, 1824. As a young boy, he procured work on the Delaware and Hudson Canal as a mule driver. It was not long before he had a boat of his own and his ability attracted the attention of the officials of the D&H. Soon thereafter he was placed at the head of the freight department of the Canal company. He married, January 17, 1849, Miss Mary A., daughter of Peter Cornell, of Rondout, New York. In the spring of 1852 he bought

of Major Cornell a half-interest in his canal freight line between New York and Honesdale. In 1857 he became the sole owner of that freight line, and moved to Honesdale, where for the following seven years he operated successfully his D&H Canal freight line. On January 1, 1864, Coe F. Young entered the service of the D&H as superintendent of the Canal Department. On the death of Russell F. Lord, general superintendent of the canal, on July 7, 1867, Coe F. Young succeeded to that position. On May 13, 1869, he was named D&H General Superintendent (title later changed to General Manager). On September 7, 1875, Coe F. Young became a director of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad. On September 4, 1877, he was elected (as successor to Joseph H. Ramsey) President of the A&S, and served as president of the A&S up to September 17, 1889. He served as General Manager of the D&H Canal until the death of Thomas Dickson, in July, 1884. On October 24, 1884, he was elected Vice-President and General Manager of the D&H company. In July 1885, he resigned, and his son, Horace G. Young, was, on September 30, 1885, appointed to fill the vacancy. Coe F. Young died of pneumonia at Thomasville, Ga., where he had gone in search of health, on March 23, 1889. D&H Engine No. 12 was named Coe F. Young.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Troubled Times

Vol.  
13

DVD  
R O M  
2016

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Troubled Times - the 1870s



Section of Washburn Street Cemetery, Scranton, PA, wherein are interred the earthly remains of many of the 110 men and boys who were killed in the September 6, 1869 Avondale Mine Disaster, Plymouth Township, PA. Photo by the author on September 6, 2014.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2016

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407



*Russell D. Peters' Flower Garden, D&H Carbondale Yard, c. 1941-1948.*

Russell D. Peters and his wife, nee Helen Vojick, lived at 93 Salem Avenue, Carbondale. Russell Peters worked as a switchman in the Carbondale D&H marshalling yard in the period 1941-1948. He also established and maintained a flower garden in the D&H Carbondale yard.

One section of that flower garden is shown here. The placement of this flower garden in the industrial context of a busy railroad yard is not only remarkable but also tells us a great deal about Russell D. Peters and his approach to living his life. This photograph and two others of Peters' flower garden in the Carbondale yard which are presented in this volume were produced from negatives of photographs that were taken by Carbondale photographer William J. Nally, 100 Gordon Avenue, Carbondale. Those negatives were donated to the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum in 2015 by John J. Vojick, age 94, of 44 Belmont Street, Carbondale. (John J. Vojick is the brother-in-law of Russell D. Peters, who married Helen Vojick, who was a stenographer/vice president of the Carbondale First National Bank; John J. Vojick, who was born May 7, 1920, died on August 4, 2016). The technical expertise and assistance of Ken Atkinson (GRAFXPRESS DIGITAL STUDIOS, Scott Township, PA), who produced electronic copies of those negatives, has made it possible for us to present these three remarkable photographs in this volume.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Carbondale Stations

Vol.  
14

DVD  
R O M  
2016

## Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Carbondale Stations, Freight Houses, and the Carbondale Yard



*D & H Round House, holding 57 Locomotives, Carbondale, Pa. Post card in the collection of the Carbondale D. & H. Transportation Museum*

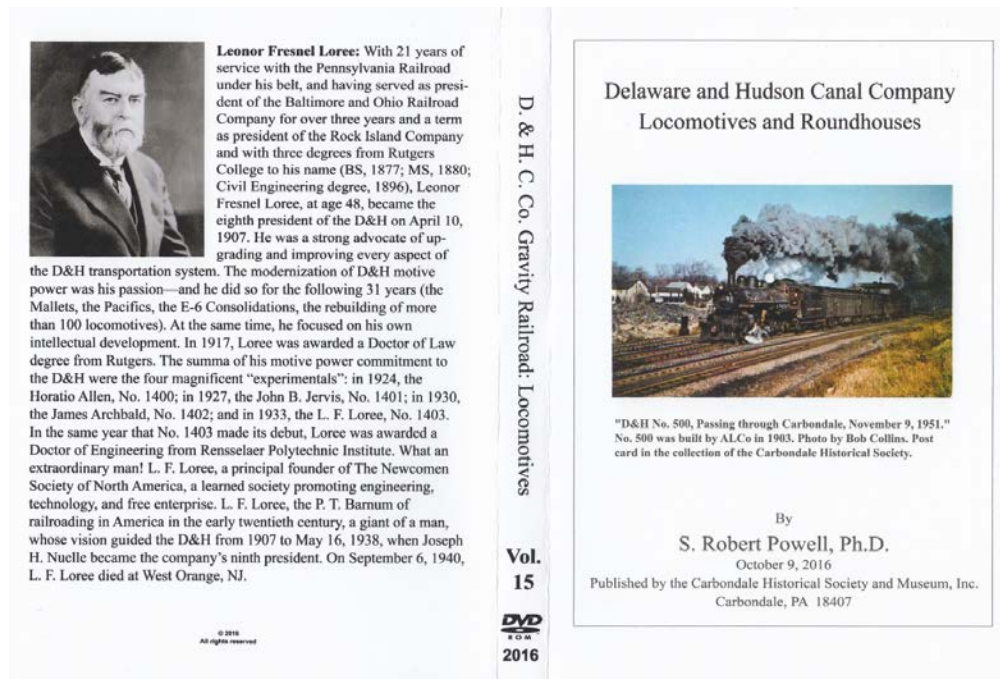
By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

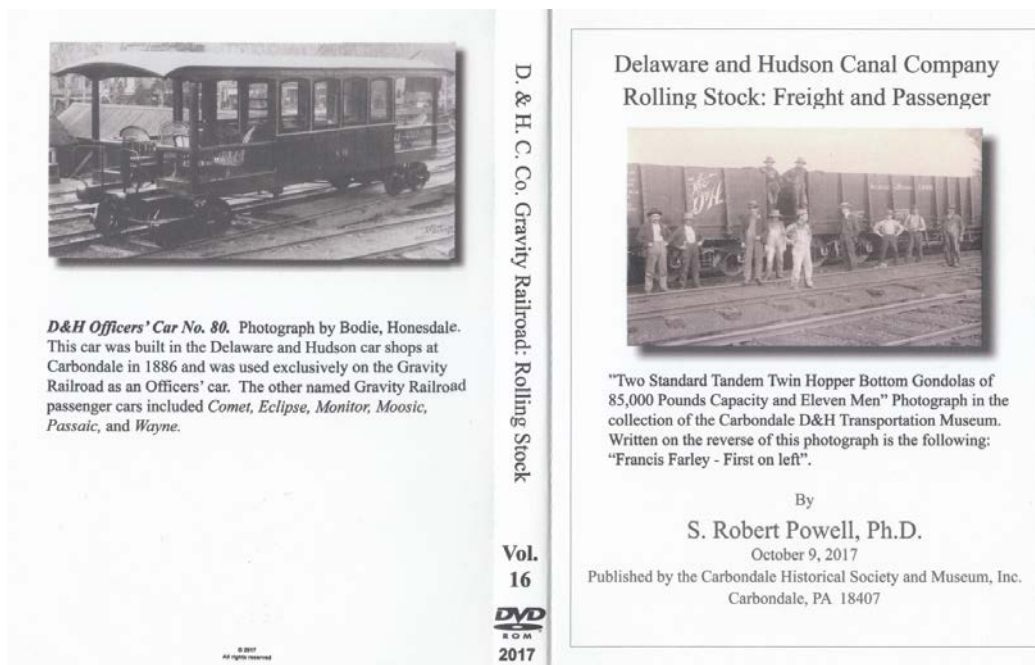
October 9, 2016

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407





On October 9, 2017, Volumes XVI through Volumes XX in Robert’s series on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company were published. Here are the dust jackets for those five volumes:





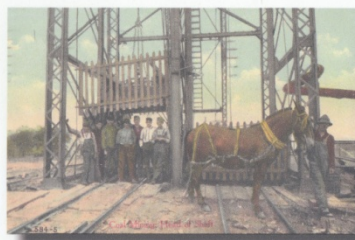
**Carbondale West Side Mine Fire.** Photograph stamped on reverse "CRAMER STUDIO /19 N. MAIN STREET / CARBONDALE, PA." This photograph, signed "J M CRAMER," is a *Kodachrome Enlargement* (7 3/8" x 7 3/8") made by Kodak in October 1962. This photograph by John M. Cramer, who resided at 75 Laurel Street, Carbondale, is one of six color enlargements of photographs of the Carbondale Mine Fire by John M. Cramer that came to the Carbondale Historical Society from the estate of Frank and Kitty Kelly, Carbondale.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Anthracite Mining

Vol. 17  
DVD ROM  
2017

## Anthracite Mining in the Lackawanna Valley in the Nineteenth Century



**Coal Mining: Head of Shaft.** Post card in the collection of the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2017

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407



**Slate Pickers - Scranton, Pa.** Post card in the collection of the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum. This is a generic post card. The same image was probably used, with a different title (e.g., *Slate Pickers - Pittston*) on post cards that were marketed in other communities in the anthracite region. Estimates of the number of breaker boys who worked in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania vary widely, and official statistics are generally considered by historians to undercut the numbers significantly. In 1880, it is estimated that 20,000 breaker boys worked in the coal fields of Pennsylvania; in 1900, 18,000; in 1907, 24,000. The practice of employing children in coal breakers largely ended by 1920 because of the efforts of the National Child Labor Committee, sociologist and photographer Lewis Hine, and the National Consumers League, who educated the public about the practice and succeeded in passing child labor laws.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Breakers

Vol. 18  
DVD ROM  
2017

## Breakers



**Powderly Colliery, Carbondale, Pa.** Post card in the collection of the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2017

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407





**The First Locomotive in America**, painting by Clyde Osmer DeLand, 1917, which is reproduced at the head of the 1918 calendar that was produced by the Continental Fire Insurance Company, New York. This calendar is in the holdings of the Wayne County Historical Society. In this painting, showing the trial run of the Stourbridge Lion on August 8, 1829, in Honesdale, there is a high degree of verisimilitude (even though the colors assigned to the engine itself are not historically correct).

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Stourbridge Lion

Vol.  
19

DVD  
ROM  
2017

## The Stourbridge Lion



Fully working replica of the *Stourbridge Lion* that was made at the D&H shops at Colonie, NY and exhibited at the Century of Progress.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2017

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407



**D&H Engine No. 7, E. A. Quintard, Parked at Carbondale's Union Station, 1899.** The original of this photograph is owned by Jim and Maureen Clift, Hawley, PA. Jim Clift is the grandson of William R. Clift, who worked for the D&H and who is seen in this photograph on the far right. *D&H Engine No. 7, E. A. Quintard*, was used on passenger runs, beginning in 1899, on the new D&H standard-gauge line between Carbondale and Honesdale, known as the Honesdale Branch of the D&H. Seen in this photograph, left to right, standing on the ground, are Joe Fox and Frank Farrell; in the cab, Guy Little, trainman, and Oscar Histed, engineman. John Bryden and William R. Clift are standing on the ground at the right.

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D. & H. C. Co. Gravity Railroad: Honesdale Branch

Vol.  
20

DVD  
ROM  
2017

## The Honesdale Branch of the D&H



*D&H Engine No. 142, leaving the switchback and heading up the hill towards Farview and Honesdale.* Written on the back of this photograph is the following text: "The first steam train ever to run on the Honesdale Branch from Carbondale to Honesdale and return after the D&H Gravity was abandoned. It was a trial run with officials and crew *No Passengers*". Photo in the Clift collection (Jim and Maureen Clift), Hawley, PA. Jim's grandfather, William R. Clift, is seen, second from the left, in this photograph.

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

October 9, 2017

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.  
Carbondale, PA 18407



Robert continued his appearances with the Dearly Departed Players during the annual Dunmore Cemetery Tour in the first two weeks of October.

In 2014, he portrayed Henry Silkman:



Robert is shown here with Billy Loney in the cemetery before the performances began:





In 2015, Robert portrayed Judge Robert W. Archbald in the Dunmore Cemetery Tour. The first two photographs were taken during rehearsals, which begin annually in July for the October tour.



The photograph given below was taken during a performance in October 2015. More than 500 persons attended this 2015 tour.





In 2016, Robert, speaking as himself, delivered “thank you” tributes during the tour to Jim Patterson and Nancy MacDonald, former members of the tour who had “retired” from active participation in the annual tours. The photo of Robert with a horse from the Dunmore Police force is a promotional photo that was taken in the weeks before the October tour.



In October 2017, Robert served as the master of ceremonies/introductory speaker for the Dunmore Cemetery Tour. Both of the 2017 photographs were taken by Drew Bubser. In the first photo, we see Robert, in the wings, waiting for the tour to begin.



Robert is also seen, fourth from the right, in the curtain call photo by Drew Bubser that was taken at the conclusion of the 2017 tour:

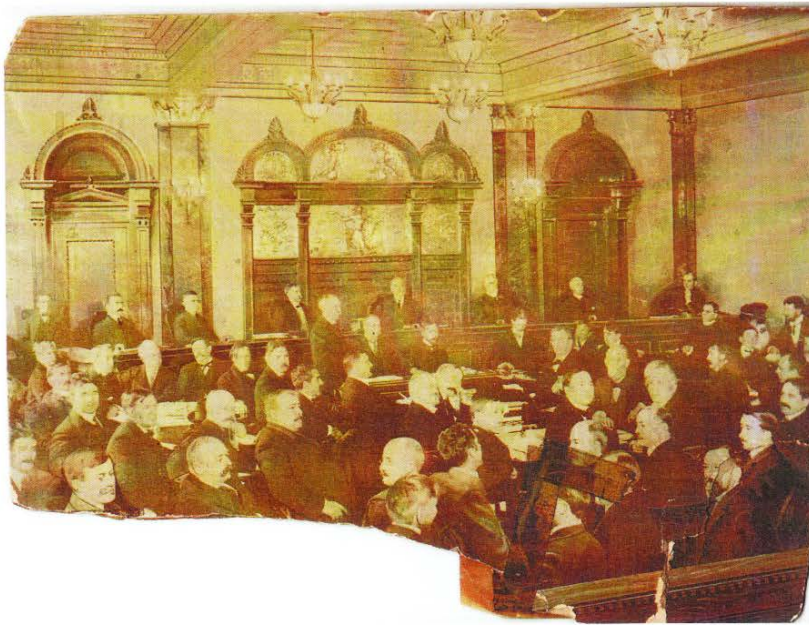




On October 9, 2018, the final four volumes in Robert's D&H series, Volumes XXI-XXIX were published. Here are the front cover pages of those four volumes:

## **Delaware and Hudson Canal Company**

### **The Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902**



*Anthracite Strike Commission, in Session, Courtroom No. 3, Lackawanna County Courthouse, Scranton, PA, November 17, 1902. Photograph by T. E. Dillon, Scranton, PA, 1902. Photograph formerly in the collection of Charles Melville, Jr., Carbondale, now in the holdings of the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum. Seen in this photograph are three members of the Anthracite Strike Commission (Baer, Wilson, Spalding) as well as Clarence Darrow and John Mitchell.*

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2018

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407



# Delaware and Hudson Canal Company

## The People: the D&H, the Community



*Welsh Family Picnic: John and Mary (Howell) Powell (standing at the far end of the table) and Family. John Powell was born Abersychan, South Wales, August 1841, and came to America in 1864; Mary Howell was born in Pendaren, South Wales, in July 1847, and came to America in 1865. Photograph in the Russell Homestead Photo Archive, Carbondale, PA.*

By

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

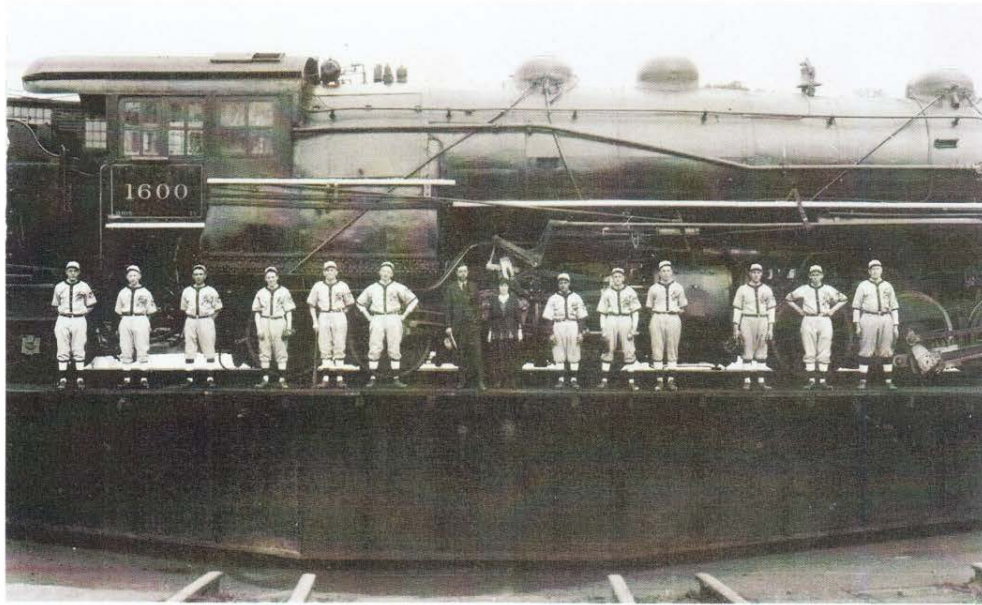
October 9, 2018

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407

# **Delaware and Hudson Canal Company**

## **The Quality of Life in the Lackawanna Valley in the Nineteenth Century**



*D. & H. Motive Power Shop Baseball Team, Carbondale, 1921. Left to right: Jimmy Carden, Tom Boylan, Johnnie Leo, Mallica Mannion, Reuben Molinaro, unknown, Maurice Blocksidge (Painter foreman), Lena McGowan (secretary), Scanky Leo, Jimmy Tyson, Joe Beahan, Phil Farber, Jimmy Farrell, Pat Sharkey. Photograph in the holdings of the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum, donated by Frank Truman, Carbondale.*

By

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2018

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407

**Delaware and Hudson Canal Company**  
**The Birth and First Maturity of Industrial America**



*D&H No. 7, E. A. Quintard, parked at Union Station, Carbondale. Photo in the Jim and Maureen Clift collection, Keens, PA, that was presented to the Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum by Hank Loftus, on October 23, 2014. Jim Clift is the grandson of William R. Clift, who worked for the D&H, and who is seen in this photograph on the far right.*

By

**S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.**

October 9, 2018

Published by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc.

Carbondale, PA 18407



In October/November 2018, the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum hosted a second American tour of the Côr Dahtlu Cwmtawe. The account of that tour that Robert wrote was published in the January/February 2019 issue (p. 27) of *Ninnau*. Here is the text of that article:

### **Return Journey to America by Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe**

By S. Robert Powell, Carbondale Historical Society, Pennsylvania, USA

The 2018 American tour of the Swansea Valley Celebration Male Choir and Friends was an artistic and cultural achievement of the highest order.

On five consecutive evenings, October 28-November 1, audiences in northeastern Pennsylvania were given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend five concerts in five days by the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe and friends from the Swansea Valley. Those of us who did so will remember always this amazing gift of song to American audiences by these world-class musicians from Wales, whose performances were given standing ovations throughout this American tour.

The concerts were all under the direction of Maestro Conway Morgan, with Dr. David Lyn Rees as accompanist. The musical collaboration between Conway Morgan and Dr. Rees, and between Conway Morgan and the singers, during these concerts is not only a joy to behold, but also the structure upon which are built the beautifully articulated performances by the choir and soloists.

Singing with the choir on this American tour were Helen Gibbon, soprano, and Kees Huysmans, bass/baritone, both of whom have to their credit numerous major wins at national eisteddfodau in Wales. Throughout the tour, solos and duets by these two remarkable singers were warmly received by the American audiences.

At three of these five concerts, student musical groups from local elementary and high schools performed during the evening: Sunday, October 28, Old Forge Elementary Choralaires, under the direction of Marty Ort; Monday, October 29, Western Wayne High School Marching Band, under the direction of Elaine Shedd Ort; and Tuesday, October 30, Valley View High School Chorus, under the direction of Gina Pascolini.

These guest appearances by these young American musicians were a win/win situation for all concerned. For the American students, it was the opportunity of a lifetime to showcase their musical talents and to perform on the same program as the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe and soloists. For the Welsh choir and friends, it was tantamount to opening a window on the fine musical talent and achievements of the students in these three remarkable schools, among others, in northeastern Pennsylvania. For the audiences at these concerts, it goes without saying, these performances were not only enjoyable as musical statements but also as expressions of civic pride in the achievements of students in the musical programs of these three area public schools.

The performances by the students at Valley View High School on October 30 were a special treat for the Swansea Valley Celebration Male Choir, in that the Voices of the Valley choir (all members of the Valley View High School Chorus), under the direction of Gina Pascolini, at the invitation of the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe, traveled to Wales in the summer of 2017, and performed there a highly successful concert tour. To the great pleasure of the members of the Welsh choir, and of the audience as a whole, at the Valley View High School concert, the Valley View High School Choir sang, in Welsh, *Men of Harlech* and *Rachie*. For their performances in Welsh of those two works, the Valley View student choir was given a standing ovation by the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe.

The repertory of the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe for this American tour was broad and diverse, with 23 works prepared and ready for performance. The musical program, remarkably, at each of the five concerts in this American tour by the choir, was unique.

The solos and duets performed by Helen Gibbon and Kees Huysmans at these five concerts were drawn from the broad repertory of both singers and included operatic arias, Broadway show tunes, hymns, and popular songs, all of which were beautifully and flawlessly executed with effortless grace and style by Helen Gibbon and Kees Huysmans, both of whom won the hearts of the audiences at all five venues.

Two members of the Swansea Celebration Choir, Gareth J. Davies and Barry Evans, performed solos at these concerts. The choir's performance of *Mi glwyaf*

*dyner lais* began with a poignant and beautifully focused solo performance by Gareth J. Davies, tenor, of the first verse of that extraordinary song (text of 'Gwahoddiad' with music composed by Doug Roberts, a member of the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe). An equally wonderful solo performance was presented by Barry Evans, bass, as a prelude to the choir's performance of the Reverend Eli Jenkins' prayer from *Under Milk Wood*, a radio drama written by Dylan Thomas that was later adapted for the stage. With great resolve and compassion--and beautifully rendered in his opulent bass voice--Barry Evans, reading from *Under Milk Wood*, became the omniscient narrator created by Dylan Thomas who invites the audience to close their eyes and listen to the dreams and innermost thoughts of the inhabitants of the fictional small Welsh fishing village of Llareggub. As the reading by Barry Evans drew to a conclusion, the reading by Barry Evans became, seamlessly and gently, a performance by the choir of the Reverend Eli Jenkins' prayer from *Under Milk Wood*. The impact of this performance by Barry Evans and the choir at each venue was profound and unforgettable.

The venues for these five concerts were diverse. The concerts at Western Wayne High School and Valley View High School took place in very large, modern, state-of-the-art high school auditoriums. The concert in Carbondale took place in a very large and beautiful Methodist Church with breath taking stained glass windows from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and with a splendid pipe organ, on which Mark Myers, church organist, played several selections before the concert by the choir began.

The concert in Wilkes-Barre took place in the First Presbyterian Church there, an enormous masonry building with a very high vaulted ceiling and wonderful acoustics. A special guest in the audience at this concert was Bill Hastie, a Welshman from West Pittston who is a World War II veteran and is now 99 years old and in good health. The Minister of Music at the church, Dr. John Vaida, performed several selections on the church organ as the audience assembled and before the concert by the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe began. During several selections sung by the choir, Dr. Vaida, on the church organ, together with Dr. Rees on the piano, accompanied the Welsh Choir as they sang.

The Trinity Episcopal Church in Bethlehem is an old and very beautiful building, with an austere and humanistic quality that is very appealing. The concert was co-



sponsored by the Trinity Soup Kitchen there, which for generations has ministered to the needs of the Bethlehem community. That same soup kitchen, be it known, ministered beautifully and generously to the nutritional needs of a large number of Welsh singers and friends both in the early afternoon and following the evening concert on November 1. The good fellowship and camaraderie that pervaded the church hall during that after-the-concert fellowship hour was heartwarming and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The evening in Bethlehem, following the concert by the choir there, ended on a melancholy note as the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe and friends had to say farewell, for now, to their many friends in America, the choir departing the following morning for Washington, before their return to Wales.

Generous hospitality was also the order of the day as well when the choir performed at Valley View High School. That day, in the late afternoon before the evening performance by the Welsh choir at the Valley View High School, Nick Germano and the Valley View Food Service Staff, be it known, addressed, beautifully, in the high school cafeteria, the nutritional needs of the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe and friends. The commemorative beverage cups created by the school for the occasion were well received by the choir and many of those cups now have a home in Wales.

The Chairman of the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe, Alan George, always in the moment, always a gentleman, and perpetually charming, at each concert, stepped forward from the bass section of the choir, and not only expressed the choir's sincere thanks to the hosts at each venue for their gracious hospitality but also presented all hosts with a copy of the CD that was recently released by the choir.

Given the five-concerts-in-five-days itinerary of the Welsh choir in Pennsylvania, there was not much time available for sight-seeing by the choir members and friends in northeastern Pennsylvania. Nevertheless, a number of the members of the choir and friends, during their time in Carbondale, did undertake bicycle tours (using bicycles provided by the Hotel Anthracite) on the pedestrian and bicycle trails (former railroad beds) in Carbondale and in the Lackawanna Valley. In addition, many members of the tour also found the time to visit the Carbondale Historical Society and the displays there of a broad range of anthracite mining and railroading artifacts.

In addition, on Tuesday morning, October 30, Dr. S. R. Powell, the president of the Carbondale Historical Society, at the request of several members of the choir, went to the Hotel Anthracite, home base of the Welsh tour in Carbondale, and gave a presentation there for many members of the Welsh tour on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad, which opened on October 9, 1829, between Carbondale and Honesdale, making it the first successful railroad system in America.

Several members of the tour, in addition, to the great pleasure of members of the Carbondale Historical Society, made it a point to visit again, during this American tour, as they did in 2015, Welsh Hill in Maplewood Cemetery, wherein are interred the earthly remains of many Welsh miners and their families who came to Carbondale in the 1830s to live and to work in the anthracite mines. The tombstones that mark those graves are from Wales and bear inscriptions in Welsh.

Throughout the American tour by the choir, copies of the latest CD by the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe were made available to American audiences. On the CD, which was recorded in St. Cynog's Church at Ystradgynlais, there are fifteen numbers, with solo performances by Helen Gibbon, Kees Huysmans, and Robyn Lyn Evans. To the great pleasure of many people in Carbondale, the fourth paragraph of the liner notes on the CD reads as follows: "The Choir toured Pennsylvania in 2015 and returned to the area around Carbondale in October 2018. This was the site of the first deep vein anthracite coal mine in the US in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and where the first Eisteddfod in America was held on Christmas Day 1850."

The American tour of the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe was hosted by the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Dr. S. Robert Powell, president. The tour manager was Ted Frutche; the event PR coordinator was Jerry Williams. This return journey of the Swansea Valley Celebration Male Choir to northeastern Pennsylvania was a triumphant success--for the choir and soloists, for Wales, and for America.

\* \* \* \* \*

On October 9, 2018, one hundred and eighty-nine years after the opening of the D&H Gravity Railroad, the final four volumes (Volumes XXI-XXIV) in Robert's 24-volume series of e-books, containing a total of 10,179 pages of D&H history, were published (as we have noted above). The recording by the author of data about the D&H did not, to be sure, come to an end on that day. On the contrary, the process of learning and recording data about the D&H is for the author, an on-going, life-long process.

As such, he wrote and produced a 444-page volume titled *Addendum I (December 31, 2018) to S. Robert Powell's Twenty-four Volume Series on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad*.

Presented in that volume, which can be seen as Volume XXV in Robert's D&H series, are materials that Robert learned about the D&H in the period October 10, 2018--December 31, 2018. All of those D&H materials will ultimately be incorporated into the volumes in the author's 24-volume series.

Here are the front and back covers of the DVD jacket for that volume:



# The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company

## Addendum I (December 31, 2018) to S. Robert Powell's Twenty-four Volume Series on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad



*Looking Down at the Lackawaxen River from the Head of Plane No. 14 on the Delaware and Hudson Gravity Railroad Light Track.* In this photo, taken by the author on September 4, 2018, we see the abutment on the South shore of the Lackawaxen River for the Honesdale and Clarksville turnpike bridge that was erected there over the Lackawaxen River, probably in 1830, and used until no later than 1845, when the second configuration of the Gravity Railroad was installed.

By  
**S. Robert Powell**

**Published by the Carbondale Historical Society & Museum, Inc.**

**December 31, 2018**



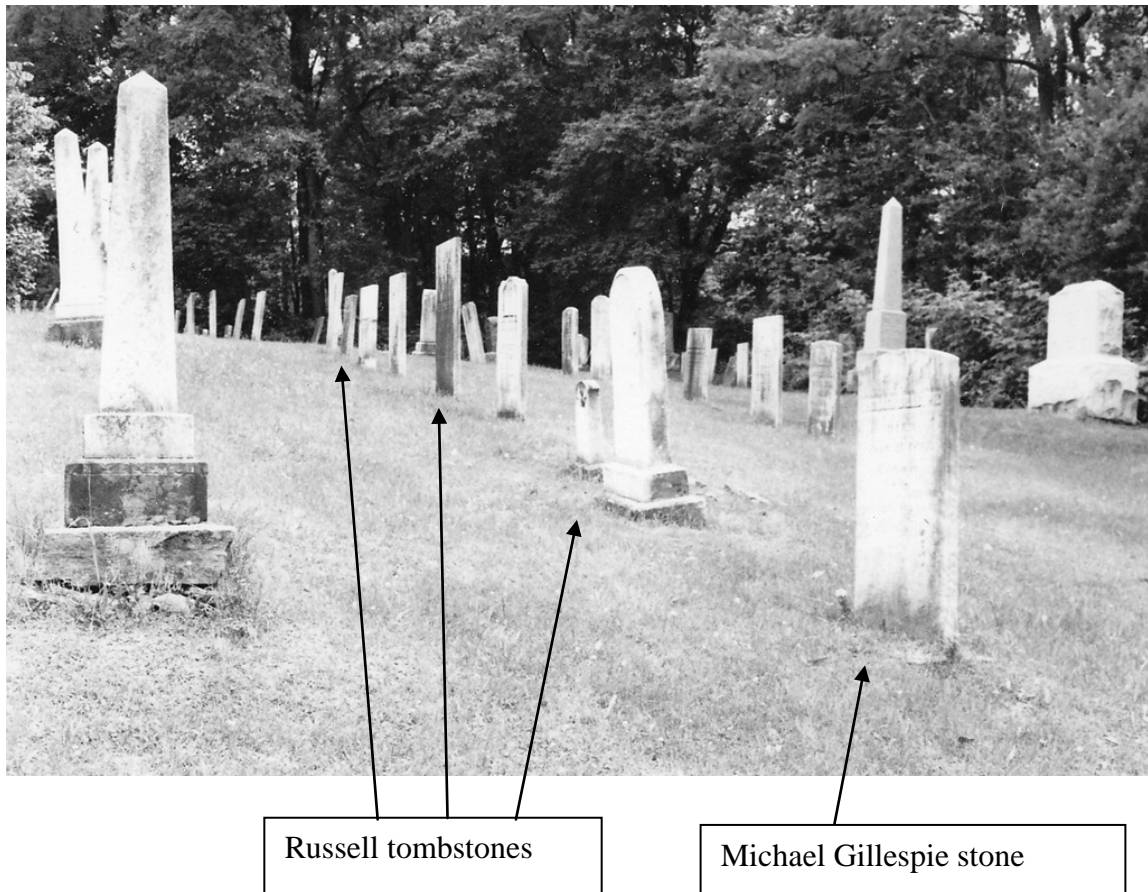
*Looking up Level 15, which is now part of Birch Lane, Prompton, PA. Heading West on Route 6 out of Prompton, turn right at the crest of the mountain onto Birch Lane. In traveling up Birch Lane the first road that you cross, less than 50 yards up Birch Lane, is the former Level No. 15 (which is also a part of Birch Lane).*

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On December 31, 2018, Robert, having identified the 20 most enthusiastic supporters of his 20-year research and publication project on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, presented to those individuals and organizations, as a modest expression of his sincere thanks to them for their emotional and intellectual support of the 24-volume series, as a New Year's gift, a copy of *Addendum I (December 31, 2018) to S. Robert Powell's Twenty-four Volume Series on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad*.

When his labors on this celestial sphere shall have been completed, Dr. Powell's earthly remains will be interred at Elkdale, Susquehanna County, in the Elkdale Cemetery. Therein, in the Russell family plot, in a single row, are interred the remains of many of Robert's Scottish ancestors, including those of his celebrated ancestor, Michael Gillespie, who died a hundred years before Dr. Powell was born. Here is a photograph taken by Robert of the family stones in Elkdale Cemetery:



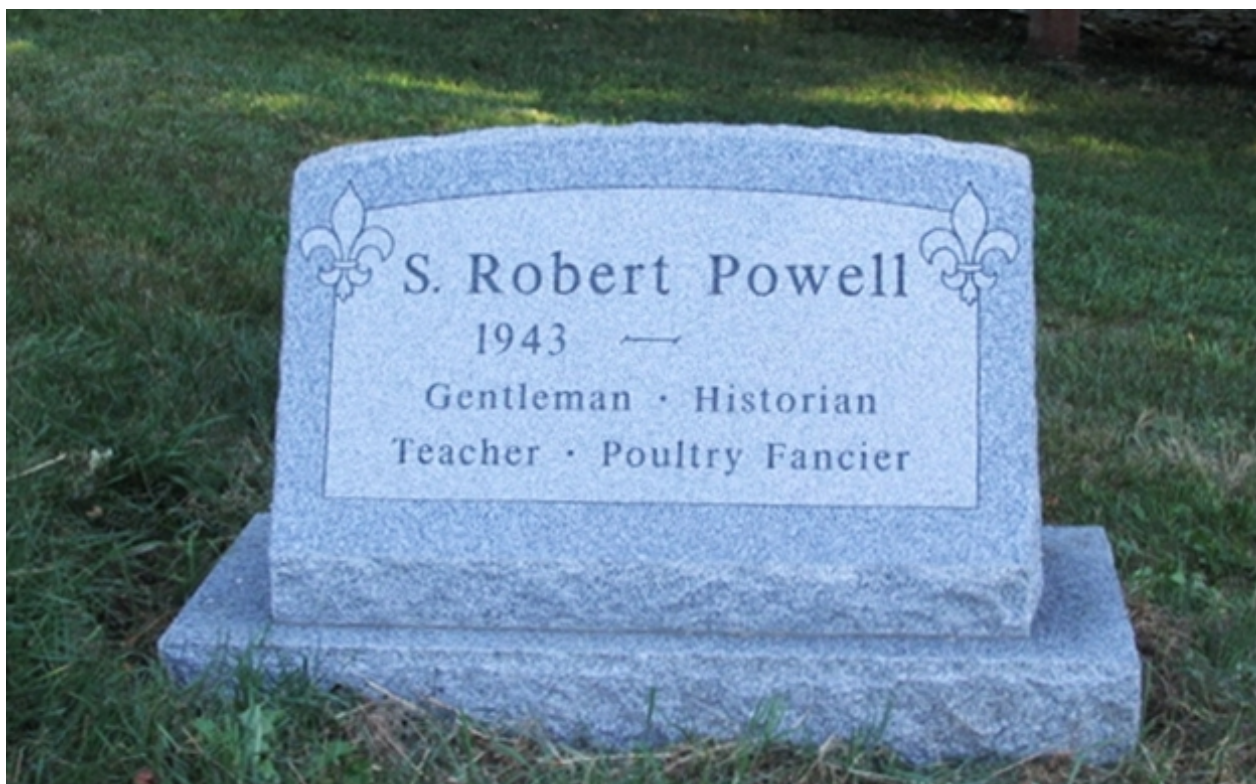


Here is another photograph of Elkdale Cemetery that was taken by Robert:



During the summer of 2015, Robert designed and had created the tombstone that will mark his burial site in Elkdale Cemetery. On August 5, 2015, Robert, together with a small group of friends, formally unveiled his tombstone in the Elkdale Cemetery. In the photograph shown below, Robert is unveiling his own tombstone.





The epitaph on Robert's tombstone reads:

**S. Robert Powell**  
**1943—0000**

**Gentleman, Historian,**  
**Teacher, Poultry Fancier**

Here is a photograph that was taken by Michele Bannon at these tombstone unveiling ceremonies. Seen in this photograph, starting from the left, are Pat Peltz, Robert, Mark Wilmot, Sandy Wilmot, Joe Scotchlas, Laure Carlo, and Tom Gordon





Life is good. On with the show.

\* \* \* \* \*

January 22, 2019 edition